

Georgia Association of Historians Newsletter



VOLUME XXVIII

Winter/Spring 2007

Don't forget...
GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIANS
35th ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 6-7
GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY
More information on the web at <http://a-s.clayton.edu/gah/>

Two Plenary Sessions Planned for April Meeting



Arnita Jones

Arnita Jones, Executive Director, American Historical Association, will speak to the members of the GAH on the topic, "Trends in the Historical Profession." The session will be held in the Legislative Chambers in the Old State Capitol Building on the campus of Georgia Military College, co-host of the event.

According to the AHA website, Jones "joined the AHA in June 1999, after serving 11 years as Executive Director of the Organization of American Historians. She received her bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and the MA and PhD in modern European history from Emory University. Arnita was also Program Officer for Planning and Assessment at the National Endowment for the Humanities and was the first director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History." **Jamil Zainaldin**, of the Georgia Humanities Council will moderate

A reception at Old Governor's Mansion, hosted by GC&SU President **Dorothy Leland**, will precede Jones' talk. After the reception, a guide will be available to talk about some of the historic sites on the three block walk to the Old Capitol Building where Arnita Jones will speak.



Tom Dyer

The second session, "Lives in History" will be presented in conjunction with the business meeting and closing luncheon, in the University Banquet Room of the Maxwell Student Union. Two master historians, **Tom Dyer**, of the University of Georgia and **Edward Cashin**, Emeritus, Augusta State University, will reflect on how their fields of specialty and the historical profession have changed in the course of their careers. Comments from the audience are invited; **Tom Scott**, Kennesaw State University will moderate.



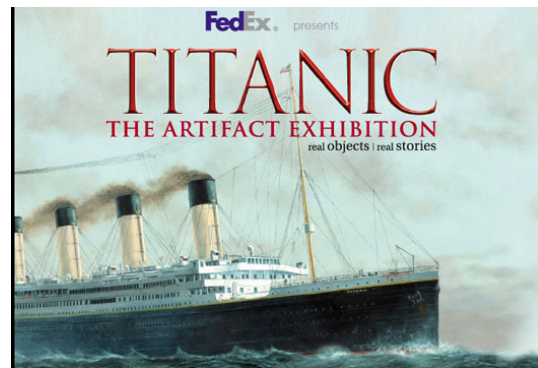
Edward Cashin

Exhibit Review

“Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit”

By Lou Brackett

Imagine cold, dark and quiet. That’s the feeling you get at the end of your visit to “*Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit*,” now on display at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center through May 6, 2007.



The luxury liner *RMS Titanic* sailed from Southampton, England, on April 10, 1912, on its maiden voyage, carrying a full load of passengers. Four days later she struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and sank in less than three hours. Fifteen hundred passengers perished in the frigid waters while waiting for rescue, including some of the most illustrious and wealthy people in the world at that time. Built using the most modern technology of the time, *Titanic* was supposedly unsinkable and had far too few lifeboats available for the number of passengers. Second and third class passengers suffered the greatest casualties. *Titanic* remained undisturbed on the bottom of the ocean floor for over seventy years until it was discovered in 1985. “*Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit*” showcases many of the items retrieved by submersible vehicles.

Along with your ticket purchase, you receive an ID tag for an actual passenger on the ship. At the end of the tour you are invited to read the survivor’s list to see if you were one of the lucky few who lived. Both my daughter and I were assigned the names of third class women. She had no children; I had three traveling with me.

It is truly amazing what items survived and are on exhibit, ranging from a very large piece of the hull to china from the dining room to playing cards and perfume bottles. The exhibit begins with the story of *Titanic*’s construction in Belfast and the White Star line’s boasts about luxury and safety. As you proceed, you learn about the maiden voyage and what supplies and cargo were carried on board. Displays range from a luxurious stateroom to a third class bunk room. The middle part of the exhibit covers the crash of the iceberg and the sinking itself, including frantic calls for help and the careless loading of the lifeboats. The last part of the exhibit showcases some of the artifacts that have been recovered from the ocean floor, actually just a small part of the entire collection that is stored in Atlanta in an undisclosed location.

Each section of the exhibit gets darker and quieter, moving from fiddle music at the beginning to almost total darkness and quiet at the end. One of the submersible recovery vehicles hangs from the ceiling at the end of the exhibit, along with the giant piece of the hull and finally, the survivor’s list. Both my daughter’s assigned person and mine survived, along with the three children traveling with me.

Call 404-658-7159 or go to www.titanictix.com for ticket information. Tickets are not cheap (\$16 for kids ages 5 to 12; free for 4 and under, \$20 for ages 13-64; \$18 for 65 and older) but remember, these artifacts have rested at the bottom of the ocean for over seventy years. They deserve to be seen. ❖

New GAH Organizational Step Proposed

The Executive Board of the GAH will present a motion for the approval of the general membership at the annual meeting that will create a new position with the title of Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The purpose of this change is to make current organizational record-keeping more consistent and to avoid the inconveniences that result from moving banking records from place to place with the election of each new Treasurer. It would establish a home base for the GAH, with a permanent mailing address and a central location for the maintenance of membership and banking records. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer will also maintain the GAH website, produce the newsletter, assist the Treasurer with routine banking business, and be available to deal with email queries to the GAH

The board would appoint the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The elective offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair will continue in their present responsibilities. The change will not affect the Archives of the GAH, which preserves our institutional documentary record.

Kathryn Kemp, who presently edits the website and newsletter, has agreed to accept the additional responsibilities, if the membership approves the change. ❖

Tour Andalusia Farm

Flannery O'Connor wrote two novels and two collections of short stories while living at her family's dairy farm, Andalusia, during the years from 1951 until her death in 1964. Settings and characters in many of her stories are related to her experiences at this Milledgeville farm. Although we are not organizing a special GAH tour, Andalusia will be available at 1:30 on Saturday, April 7. There is no admission charge; donations are requested.

This opportunity will be of particular interest to those who attend Session 15: Preserving the Historical Legacy of the Built Environment: The Trials and Tribulations of Creating, Sustaining, and Advancing the Life and Work of Mary Flannery O'Connor in Georgia. Andalusia is open for public tours; information may be found by calling 478-454-4029 or contacting www.andalusiafarm.org. ❖

Early Arrivals in Milledgeville Invited to GC&SU Event

If you arrive early for the GAH meeting in Milledgeville, you are invited to attend a talk by Dr. Joan Allen, of the University of Newcastle (England). Her topic is "Transatlantic Connections: British Radicalism and American Democracy, 1860-1886" This presentation is part of the Coverdell Institute Liberty Lecture Series at Georgia College & State University. It is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the Magnolia Room of the Student Activities Center (the former Methodist Church Building, Hancock Street). ❖

Is something missing?

If you have news, please let us know. Publications, promotions, tenure approval, involvement in projects, presentations, and similar items interest our readers. You can easily [email the Newsletter](#) using this link. ❖



Historia Website Links Historians on Georgia Perimeter Campuses

[Historia](#), a web site designed by GAH member Will Simson, serves Georgia Perimeter history students and faculty on the college's four campuses. Simson points to the "logistical reality" that distance and traffic limits face-to-face contact among faculty members based at the various locations. When Perimeter's administration, seeking solutions to this dilemma, asked the faculty to develop solutions to this problem, the history faculty asked Simson to create a web resource for their use. Simson drew on his experience in designing *Electronic Alexandria*, a WebCT online resource for students and faculty, to create the new site.

Simson constructed "a vehicle that would serve as our cyber center--our online meeting room and resource base. For students, the resources provided by the site will allow them a one-stop information post where they can find out about what to do with a history degree, what kind of career track one may take, and what it takes course-wise to get an AA at Georgia Perimeter College and more advanced degrees at other schools." Users of the History Matters blog, located on the *Historia* site can locate information about upcoming history exhibitions, club meetings, regional historical sites, conferences, and similar matters.

Because *Historia* is new, Simson does not make exaggerated claims for its success, "We won't have a clear idea on its effectiveness till the end of the semester." Asked if he had advice for others interested in a similar project, Simson suggested that they consider the outlay in development time and warned, "They may encounter some resistance enticing traditional faculty to participate." However, his own students already make regular use of *Historia*. He credits the encouragement of Interim Dean of Social Sciences Barbara L. Brown, as well as the skills of GPC-Dunwoody faculty member Joel McMahon, and technologist Julia Peace as helping to realize the project. ❖

One more reminder...

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIANS

**35th ANNUAL MEETING
Starts at noon on April 6th!**

Member News

GAH Treasurer **Glenn Eskew's** *But for Birmingham: The Local and National Movements in the Civil Rights Struggle*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.) was included in a list of recommended reading on Martin Luther King circulated by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in their online newsletter. According to its website, the Institute "promotes the study and love of American history [and] serves teachers, students, scholars, and the general public." ❖

History News Network published an op-ed piece by Clayton State Assistant Professor **Marko Maunula**, comparing U.S. Reconstruction and the present conditions in Iraq. ❖

Associate Professor **Gail Pat Parsons** of Gordon College has been approved to receive tenure. ❖

John Fair, Georgia College & State University, has been awarded a Sasakawa Fellowship to study Japanese history and culture at the National Faculty Development Institute at San Diego State University for three weeks in June 2007. ❖

Long-time GAH member **Lee Formwalt**, Executive Director of the Organization of American Historians, has been elected to the American Antiquarian Society, an independent research library founded in 1812 in Worcester, Massachusetts. According to the AAS website, "Members are elected by their colleagues in recognition of scholarship, for support of cultural institutions, for manifest interest in bibliographical matters, or for distinction as community or national leaders in humanistic affairs" The library's collections document the life of America's people from the colonial era through the Civil War and Reconstruction. ❖

James J. Lorence (University of Wisconsin Colleges, emeritus), recently published "Mobilizing the Reserve Army: The Communist Party and the Unemployed in Atlanta, 1929-1934," in Chris Green, Rachel Rubin, and James Smethurst, *Radicalism in the South* (New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2006), 56-80. ❖

The UNC press has published *Grassroots Garveyism: The Universal Negro Improvement Association in the Rural South, 120-1927* by GAH member **Mary G. Rolinson**. ❖